



PICCLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1943

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

-and-

SANITARY INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C.A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

C.M.ROBINSON, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.

(Resigned 31st March, 1943)

H.W.PRIDMORE, M.S.I.A., M.R. San.I., Cert. S.I.B.
as Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector.
(Appointed 1st April, 1943)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

D.W.POPE, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., as Sanitary Inspector.
(on active service)

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector:

R.B.BOLT, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., as Sanitary Inspector.
(Appointed 18th October, 1943)

Meat Inspector:

J.J.E. JONES

General Assistant:

P.E. MILLER

(on active service)

Clerks:

MISS R.P. NEWMAN and MISS D.N. SENIOR

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	10,152
Registrar-General's estimate of population	22,720
Number of inhabited houses end of 1943 according to Rate Books.	5,868
Rateable Value	£93,738. 0. 0d
Sum represented by a penny rate	£401.12. 6d

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	170	174	344
Illegitimate	7	6	13

Birth Rate, 15.7 per 1,000 civilian population.

<u>STILL BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	3	11
Illegitimate	-	-	..

Still Birth Rate, 0.48 per 1,000 civilian population.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>DEATHS</u>	124	127	251

Death Rate, 11.04 per 1,000 civilian population.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth:

From Sepsis.....	0
From other causes ..	0
Total.	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	19.5		
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76.9		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2.7		
per 1,000 live births.			

The causes of death were:-

<u>Ref:</u>		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
5	Diphtheria.	-	1
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	6	4
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	2	-
9	Influenza.	-	2
10	Measles.	2	-
12	Acute infective encephalitis.	-	1
13	Cancer of bronchial cavity etc.	5	2
14	" of stomach & duodenum.	3	5
15	" of breast.	-	2
16	" of all other sites.	11	9
17	Diabetes.	-	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	11	18
19	Heart disease.	35	33
20	Other diseases of circulatory system.	5	6
21	Bronchitis.	10	9
22	Pneumonia.	4	2
23	Other respiratory diseases.	-	3
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	2	-
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	1	-
26	Appendicitis.	2	-
27	Other digestive diseases.	2	2
28	Nephritis.	5	2
31	Premature births.	1	-
32	Congenital malformation, birth injuries etc.	1	2
34	Road traffic accidents.	1	-
35	Other violent causes.	2	4
36	All other causes.	13	19
Total		<u>124</u>	<u>127</u>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

There have been no extensions or alterations to the supply during the year.

Samples are taken at regular intervals, and the result of the latest examination was as follows:-

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

WATER SUPPLY

Appearance	Clear and bright.
Colour	Normal.
Odour	Very Faintly chlorinous.
Reaction pH Neutral	Neutral:- 7.3
Free Carbonic Acid	1.4
Electric conductivity at 20°C	400
Total Solids, dried at 180°C	26.5
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.3
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	20.0
Hardness: Total	20.5
Temporary	18.0
Permanent	2.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00
Nitrites	Less than 0.001
Free Ammonia	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0.000
Metals	Absent.
Free Chlorine	Reaction 0.08 part per million.

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in 1 day	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre growing upon Agar at 37°C. in 2 days	1
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre growing upon Agar at 20°C. in 3 days	2
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37°C.	Absent 100 c.c.
(Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogones)..	Absent 100 c.c.

REPORT

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is not unduly hard in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory and consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE: No material change.

RIVERS AND STREAMS: No change.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION: " "

PUBLIC CLEANSING: With the exception of the parishes of Langford, Henlow and Shefford, there has been no change in the arrangements for the removal of household refuse and night soil since my last report.

This work in the three parishes was previously carried out by contract, but owing to the irregular collections and general unsatisfactory performance of the contract by the firm concerned, the Council decided to terminate the contract and do the work by direct labour.

The new arrangements came into force in August, and have been most satisfactory ever since.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Work has proceeded as normally as possible, but has necessarily been on a rather reduced scale owing to changes in staff, and the fact that we were without an Additional Sanitary Inspector for over six months of the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS: There was only one swimming pool at an entertainments centre in the district, and these premises have been requisitioned by the Military Authorities.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

- (a) Council Houses found to be infested .. 7
- (b) Other houses " " " " .. 12

Six of the infested houses were occupied by evacuees.

Disinfestation was carried out in each case, Lawes Block disinfestators and Zaldecide liquid being used. The process was repeated after a lapse of ten days, and all bedding was disinfected.

SCHOOLS: No change.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT: The Bedfordshire County Council was the responsible Authority until 8th December, 1943, when the Council accepted powers under the Act. Earlier in the year, a direction had been served on the Council by the Minister of Food, requiring the submission of a report with respect to the extent of rat and mice infestation in the area.

Further details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES: No change - Routine visits have been made.

H O U S I N G

Unfortunately, work under this heading has again had to be curtailed, partly because of war time difficulties and partly for reasons already stated. The scheme for the repairs of houses outlined in Housing Circular 2871, will greatly facilitate the work of Local Authorities, and it is hoped that full advantage will be taken of the scheme.

One owner applied for, and was granted, a certificate of essentiality under the above scheme in respect of two old cottages which it was proposed to convert into one dwelling. The same owner has also applied for assistance under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act,

and his application is now being considered by the Bedfordshire County Council. No other applications for assistance under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY: Greater attention has been paid to the supervision of the milk supply of the district. Details of the 68 samples of milk taken during the year are given on page nine.

When the results of a milk sample were considered unsatisfactory, the matter was discussed with the dairyman concerned, and a further inspection made. It was found that there was a genuine desire on the part of milk producers to obtain a clean milk, and it is interesting to note that after these discussions a satisfactory result was obtained.

At the end of the year there were 60 farms registered for the production of milk. 17 persons are registered as retail purveyors of milk, whilst 2 dairymen produce and retail Tuberculin Tested (Certified) milk and 20 produce Accredited.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS: Usual inspections were carried out during the year. Further details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

There was a considerable increase in the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the number being 370 as compared with 82 in 1942. The major part of this increase was due to the large number of cases of measles which totalled 237, as against 7 last year. There was also an increase in whooping cough, and a slight increase in scarlet fever. In addition, jaundice was made a notifiable disease for the first time, and there were 15 cases of this disease.

On the whole, the majority of the cases of measles were mild, but there were however, two deaths from this disease. One child who had not been immunised died from diphtheria.

Immunisation against diphtheria continued on the same lines as in previous years. More children under the age of 5 years, are being protected. It is estimated that at the end of the year 82 per cent of the school population had been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS: New cases and mortality during 1943:-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	2	2	4	1	2	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
25-	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
35-	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
45-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
55-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1943	9	7	6	2	6	4	2	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASE - AGE GROUPS

<u>Disease</u>	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>2-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>4-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>20-</u>	<u>35-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65-</u>	<u>All ages</u>
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	6
Whooping Cough	4	2	8	2	7	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
Measles	6	9	14	18	28	135	21	3	2	1	-	-	237
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	4	2	12
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	3	23	5	1	1	1	1	-	37
Menigitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	-	9
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Scandice	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	15
Total ..	10	11	24	23	41	191	30	10	11	4	8	7	370

During the year Mr. Robinson unfortunately found it necessary to relinquish his duties as Chief Sanitary Inspector on account of ill health, and I would like to record my appreciation of the excellent work he carried out and of the willing assistance he gave to me during my association with him.

In conclusion, I should like to thank both the Council and my colleagues in the Health Department and other services for their keen interest and co-operation during the year.

C. A. HARVEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Biggleswade.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I beg to submit my first annual report on the work carried out during the year 1943. Unfortunately much of the normal routine work has had to be curtailed. This has been due to war time difficulties, other emergency duties and the fact that from April to October we were without an Additional Inspector. All essential matters have, however, received attention.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes:-

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS:

Dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts	323
Number of dwellinghouses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations 1925 (included above)	153
Re-Inspections and visits to works in progress	461
Visits to new buildings in course of erection	126
Inspection of factories including bakehouses	128
Inspection of dairies and cowsheds	183
Visits re infectious disease	42
Rooms disinfected	78
Miscellaneous visits including (Salvage and other Emergency Services)	1,655

HOUSING: Unfortunately, work in this connection has left much to be desired for reasons already stated, although most essential housing repairs were carried out after delay in many instances, caused by the various war time difficulties.

The introduction at the end of the year of the Ministry's scheme for the repair of houses, will greatly facilitate work under this heading. One application has already been received and the Certificate of Essentiality issued, in respect of two cottages at Wrestlingworth, which it is proposed to convert into one dwelling.

It is hoped that full use will be made of the facilities provided under this scheme.

The following works were carried out at existing dwellings during the year:-

Sanitary improvements (including drainage work) ..	203
Nuisances abated (informal action)	67

NUISANCES: Complaints, although fewer than in previous years, have been of the usual type. All were investigated and with few exceptions abated.

A number of complaints were received with regard to piggeries, and in most cases it was found that the cause was the unpleasant smell issuing from processed kitchen waste which was being used for feeding the pigs.

The complaints were all dealt with satisfactorily.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

MEAT: Much time has been spent in this work. There is one Government Controlled Slaughter House in the area, and one assistant Inspector is employed full time there, thus ensuring one hundred per cent inspection.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected and percentage found to be unfit for food:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number slaughtered	1,820	3,849	392	2,175	293
Number inspected	1,820	3,849	392	2,175	293
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT</u>					
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	-	42	1	8	9
Whole carcasses condemned.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	291	1,494	2	28	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	15.98	39.90	0.76	1.65	22.52
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	17	276	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	266	1,707	1	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tubercul- osis.	15.54	51.52	0.51	-	1.02

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human food, was as follows:-

				Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	..	..	..	117	8	1	16
Mutton	..	..	..		6	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	..	..	..		14	1	18
Veal	..	..	..			2	7
Total	..			118	10	0	14 $\frac{1}{2}$

OTHER FOOD:

Frequent visits have been made to other food shops during the year, and the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Bacon and Ham	143 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Rice	224 lbs.
Sausage	6 "	Cheese	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Canned meat	142 "	Lard	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Fish	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Chocolate	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Sugar	189 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Cream powder	112 "
Oat Meal	40 "	Canned fruit and fish	842 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

The total weight of the above is 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

MILK: Every endeavour has been made to maintain a satisfactory standard of cleanliness in spite of the present difficulties of dairymen.

Samples of milk have been submitted to the School of Agriculture, Cambridge, for examination. Brief particulars of the samples are as follows:-

Number taken	68
Average Bacterial Count	105,956
Lowest Bacterial Count	900
Highest Bacterial Count	572,800
Bacillus coli absent	27
" " present in 1 m.l.	9
" " " " 1/10th m.l.	6
" " " in 1/100th m.l.	11
" " " in 1/1000th m.l.	15

During the year three applications for registration as cowkeeper and dairymen, and one as retail purveyor of milk, were received and approved.

REFUSE COLLECTION:

Owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the contract for the removal of household refuse and night soil was being carried out, in Langford, Henlow and Shefford, it was necessary for the Council to relinquish the contract with the firm concerned, during August last, and to arrange for the work to be done by direct labour.

A second-hand refuse collection vehicle with an all metal body was purchased, and a cesspool emptier has been ordered. In the meantime, the freighter is being used for the removal of household refuse and night soil, and the cesspools are being emptied by contract.

The refuse is removed once per fortnight and the night soil twice per week.

In the remainder of the district, refuse only is removed as follows:-

Arlesey	-	once	per	week	by	direct	labour.
Stotfold	-	"	"	"	"	contract.	
Potton	-	"	"	"	"	"	

Other parishes - enclosures have been made on suitable sites for householders to deposit their refuse which is removed from the enclosure at regular intervals.

RAT AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919:

In accordance with the direction served on the Council by the Minister of Food, a preliminary survey of all rat and mice infestations in the district was made. The survey revealed 21 areas of infestation of which 7 were already being dealt with by the County Council as the responsible Authority under the Act.

A Workable Area was formed, comprising of Biggleswade and Sandy Urban Districts and Biggleswade Rural District, and in December, powers under the Act were delegated to the Council.

The County Council have agreed to act as servicing agents to this Authority.

SALVAGE: Much work has been involved in the collection of salvage throughout the district. Among the many activities have been a three months special drive and a Book Drive. The results in both instances were very satisfactory.

49,576 books were collected, and the total weight of salvage collected during the year was 186 tons. 14 cwts. 3 qrs. 0 lbs., with a value of approximately £733.

CONCLUSION: I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health, and in particular, Mr. C. M. Robinson, my predecessor, for their consideration and support, also to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

Your Obedient Servant,

H. W. PRIDMORE.

Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,
Biggleswade.